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CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 16 OCT. 53.

SUBJECT Soviet Army Shoulder Boards

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PLACE
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DATE OF IN

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The following shoulder boards were worn by units of the Soviet Army. [] no new shoulder boards or insignia.

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Arm or Service	Color of Base	Color of Piping	Remarks
Inf.	Magenta	Black	Worn by all members of the 290th Gds. Rifle Regt.
Arty.	Black	Red	-
Recon.	Black	Red	-
Tank	Black	Red	-
AAA	Black	Red	-
Mt. Trans.	Black	Red	-
Engr.	Black	Black	Often issued by QM in error to signal troops
Sig.	Black	Blue	-
Air	Light blue	Black	-
Med. Border			
Gds.	Light green	Unk.	-
QM or Service	White	Red	[]
Bands Polit.	-	-	officers with the insignia. These personnel wore no colors of their own. They used the shoulder boards of the type of unit to which they were assigned.

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ARMY review completed.

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2. Early in 1953, all units stationed on the border of the Soviet Zone of Austria were issued field shoulder boards. These were a light yellowish-green and were piped with the arm or service color, e.g., red for infantry, black for artillery. The boards were not issued to the individual soldier but were retained by the first sergeants in the company supply. When issued to the EM, each individual would be expected to sew on his rank and branch of service insignia.

3. Shoulder boards were worn in accordance with the designation of the regiment; therefore, all companies and batteries organic to a rifle regiment wore infantry shoulder boards which were magenta red with black piping. Men employed in a type of work which had an arm or service designation could optionally wear a metal insignia depicting their work, such as: signal, artillery, etc. This insignia was worn five centimeters from the shoulder board edge [redacted] the only exception on shoulder board wear as stated above was the self-propelled artillery battery in an infantry regiment which wore artillery shoulder boards that were black with red piping. There was no difference between white or yellow stars on officers' shoulder boards. Both officers and EM frequently violated shoulder board regulations, since they apparently were never clarified or enforced.

4. Bandsmen wore shoulder boards showing the color of the arm of their regiment. On these shoulder boards they wore the musician's insignia. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] They performed no military duty or training and traveled throughout the occupied areas and the Soviet Union, entertaining troops with singing, dancing, and plays. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] sometimes units or individuals would be issued this type of uniform for a one-time appearance, strictly for display. [redacted] this was not a standard item of issue. [redacted] 25X1

5. Distinguished badges [redacted] were: cook, driver, signalman, tanker, artilleryman, tractor driver, engineer, and medical instructor [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] given the [redacted] badge upon being given the responsibility [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] There was no additional pay in conjunction with the award.

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